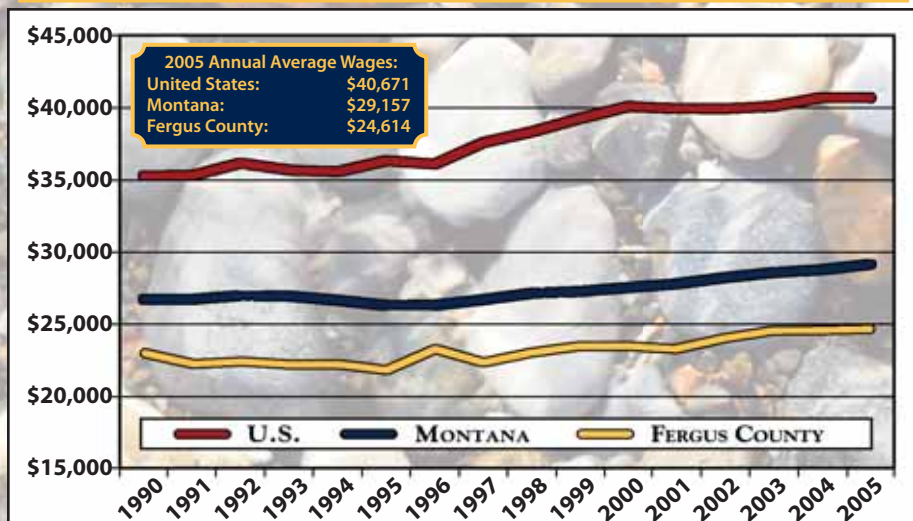


Annual Average Labor Force - Fergus County

Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2005	5,922	5,640	282	4.8
2004	5,878	5,592	286	4.9
2003	5,778	5,505	273	4.7
2002	5,880	5,606	274	4.7
2001	6,190	5,880	310	5.0
2000	6,117	5,804	313	5.1

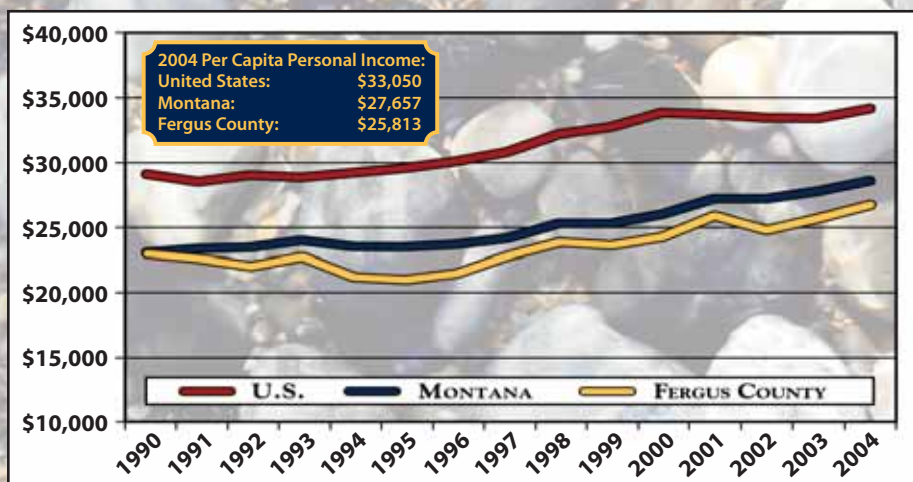
Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS)

Annual Average Wages, 1990 to 2005 (In 2005 Dollars)



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Per Capita Personal Income, 1990 to 2004 (In 2005 Dollars)



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Regional Economic Information System

Photo courtesy of Donnie Sexton, Travel Montana

Demographic & Economic Information for Fergus County

Fergus County

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS BUREAU

Research & Analysis Bureau - Montana Department of Labor & Industry
 P.O. Box 1728 - Helena, MT 59624-1728 - Ph: (406) 444-2430
 or Toll-free: (800) 541-3904 - Fax: (406) 444-2638
 E-mail: webmasterrad@mt.gov - Website: www.ourfactyourfuture.org

CEIC

Census and Economic Information Center - Montana Department of Commerce
 P.O. Box 200505 - Helena, MT 59620-0505 - Ph: (406) 841-2740 - Fax: (406) 841-2731
 E-mail: ceic@mt.gov - Website: www.ceic.mt.gov

FERGUS COUNTY

Fergus County is Montana's 15th most populous county with an estimated 11,551 residents in 2005. Lewistown, the county seat, is located at the geographic center of Montana, and is the state's 15th largest city (with an estimated population of 6,099 in 2005)¹. Other cities and towns include Denton, Grass Range, Moore, and Winifred.

The majority of Fergus County consists of rolling prairie, aside from the Big Snowy and Little Snowy Mountain Ranges to the south. The Missouri River forms the northern border of Fergus County, and much of the surrounding land has been designated part of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. The southwest corner of the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge is also located within Fergus County.

Health Care & Social Assistance is the biggest subsector of Fergus County's economy, with employment levels at 649 in 2005. Other significant subsectors include Retail Trade, Accommodation & Food Services, and Public Administration. Employment in the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services subsector jumped 61% from 2004 to 2005, while Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation also saw a significant increase, growing 18.0% during the same time period.²

Heavy and Highway Construction plays an important role in Fergus County's economy, with an average employment of 224 for the past four quarters (Second Quarter 2005 to First Quarter 2006). The average wage for Heavy and Highway construction workers was \$51,098 for the same time period.

¹U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

²Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Resources for Fergus County

Chamber of Commerce:

Lewistown Area Chamber of Commerce
408, N.E. Main, Lewistown, MT 59457
406-535-5435, www.lewistownchamber.com

Job Service Workforce Center

300 1st Ave. N., Lewistown, MT 59457
406-538-8701, <http://jsd.dli.mt.gov/local/lewistown>

Economic Development

Snowy Mountain Development Corporation,
613 N.E. Main, Lewistown, MT 59457
406-538-2591, smdcmaic@midrivers.com

Newspaper

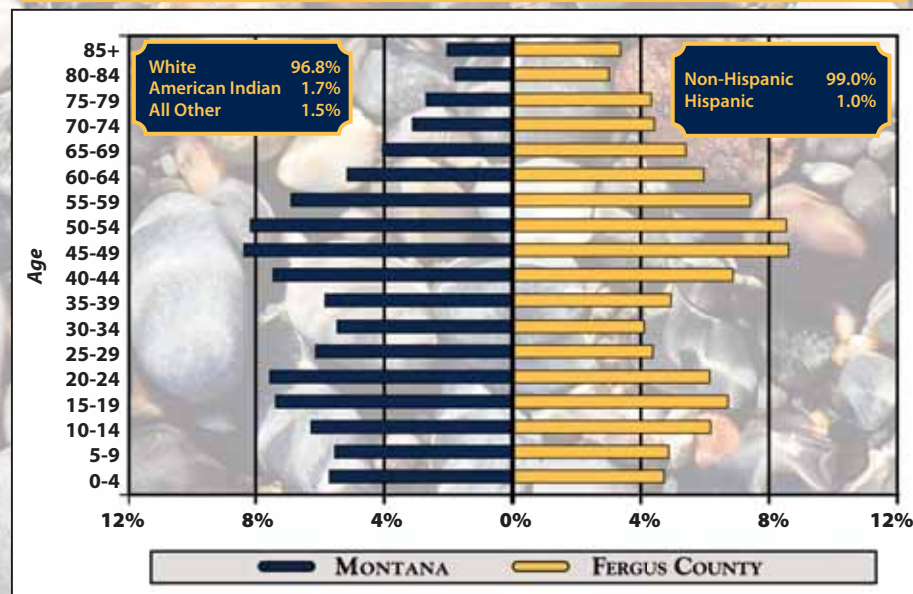
Lewistown News-Argus
P. O. Box 900, Lewistown, MT 59457
406-535-3401, www.lewistownnews.com

Population for Fergus County & Related Areas

	Total Population					
	Census	Estimates				
Geography	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Montana	902,195	906,098	910,395	917,885	926,920	935,670
Fergus County	11,893	11,761	11,677	11,653	11,619	11,551
Denton	301	297	294	293	291	288
Grass Range	149	148	147	146	145	145
Lewistown	5,813	6,218	6,173	6,172	6,155	6,099
Moore	186	185	184	185	188	188
Winifred	156	154	153	152	151	151
Balance of Fergus County	5,288	4,759	4,726	4,705	4,689	4,680

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Distribution of Population by Age Montana and Fergus County, 2005



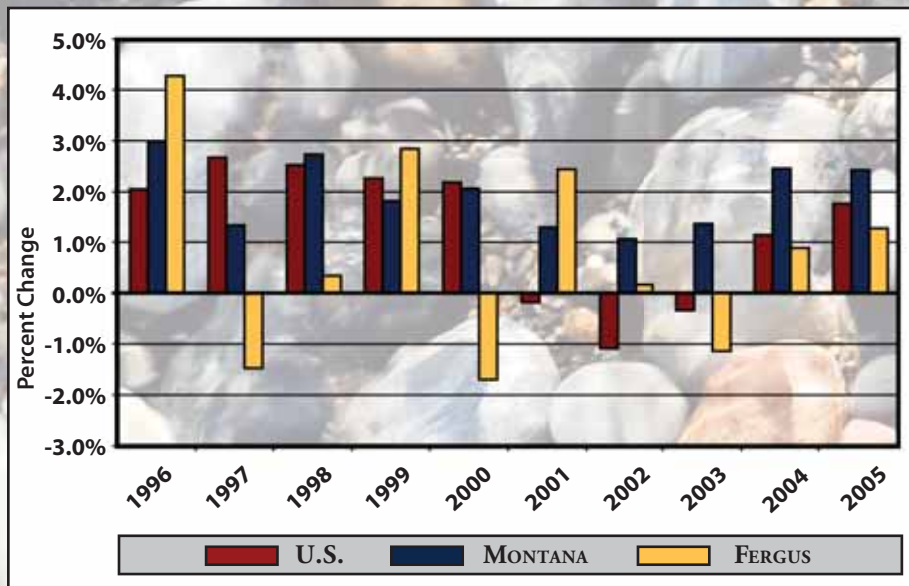
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 Population Estimates

Highest Level of Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and older)

Educational Attainment	Fergus County	Montana	U.S.
Less than High School Diploma	13.7%	12.8%	19.6%
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	36.8%	31.3%	28.6%
Some College	25.0%	25.6%	21.0%
Associate Degree	5.5%	5.9%	6.3%
Bachelor's Degree	14.3%	17.2%	15.5%
Master's Degree	3.4%	4.6%	5.9%
Professional Degree	0.9%	1.7%	2.0%
Doctoral Degree	0.5%	0.9%	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Percent Change in Employment: 1996 to 2005 U.S., Montana, and Fergus County



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Top 10 Private Employers in Fergus County (Based on 1st Quarter 2006 Data - Listed in Alphabetical Order)

Business Name	Size Class	Business Name	Size Class
Albertsons	5	Moodie Implement	4
Allied Steel	5	Sports Inc.	4
Central Montana Medical Center	7	Valle Vista Manor	5
Century Construction	5	Wickens Construction	5
Hi-Heat Industries	4	Yogo Inn	5

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 9 = 1000+ employees, Class 8 = 500 to 999 employees, Class 7 = 250 to 499 employees, Class 6 = 100 to 249 employees, Class 5 = 50 to 99 employees, Class 4 = 20 to 49 employees, Class 3 = 10 to 19 employees

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW) This list includes ONLY private industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads and government agencies are excluded.

Agricultural Statistics - Fergus County

Farms

Farms: (number)	830
Land in farms (acres)	2,281,789
Average size of farms (acres)	2,749
Farms by size: (number)	
Less than 1,000 acres	399
1,000 acres or more	431
Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number)	
Less than \$100,000	612
\$100,000 or more	218
Farms by type of organization: (number)	
Family, Individual, Partnership	775
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	55

Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested

Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)	
Cattle and calves	96,825
Hogs and pigs	416
Sheep and lambs	6,576
Horses and ponies	1,979
Bison	32
Chickens (layers and broilers)	2,482
Crops Harvested (acres)	
Corn for grain	0
Corn for silage or greenchop	0
Wheat for grain, All	151,901
Winter wheat for grain	93,334
Durum wheat for grain	482
Spring wheat for grain	58,085
Barley for grain	43,118
Oats for grain	1,982
Sunflower seed, All	(D)
Soybeans for beans	0
Hay, haylage, grass silage	163,614

Operator Demographics

Primary occupation: (number)	
Farming	571
Other	259
Place of residence: (number)	
On farm operated	672
Not on farm operated	158
Years on present farm: (number)	
Less than 10 years	210
10 years or more	620
Age group: (number)	
Under 55 years	436
55 years and over	394
Average age of operators: (number)	55.2

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002
(D) - Not Disclosable

Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2005 - Fergus County

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	461	4,200	\$24,614
TOTAL PRIVATE	416	3,181	\$23,527
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING	10	15	\$26,630
Crop production	1	*	*
Animal production	4	5	\$56,067
Forestry and logging	4	4	\$19,387
Agriculture & forestry support	2	*	*
MINING	2	*	*
Mining, except oil and gas	1	*	*
Support activities for mining	1	*	*
UTILITIES	5	46	\$62,186
CONSTRUCTION	57	350	\$39,798
Construction of buildings	16	39	\$19,809
Heavy and civil engineering construction	10	221	\$49,073
Specialty trade contractors	31	90	\$25,633
MANUFACTURING	23	298	\$26,205
Food manufacturing	4	31	\$23,480
Beverage and tobacco product mfg	1	*	*
Wood product manufacturing	2	*	*
Printing and related support activities	1	*	*
Plastics & rubber products manufacturing	1	*	*
Nonmetallic mineral product mfg	1	*	*
Primary metal manufacturing	1	*	*
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	6	105	\$37,669
Machinery manufacturing	1	*	*
Transportation equipment manufacturing	1	*	*
Miscellaneous manufacturing	4	17	\$20,338
WHOLESALE TRADE	23	194	\$28,326
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	9	*	*
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	13	94	\$27,742
Electronic markets & agents and brokers	1	*	*
RETAIL TRADE	62	465	\$20,423
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	12	77	\$26,952
Furniture and home furnishings stores	3	20	\$21,351
Electronics and appliance stores	5	13	\$16,208
Building material & garden supply stores	7	30	\$20,086
Food and beverage stores	8	*	*
Health and personal care stores	2	*	*
Gasoline stations	5	38	\$11,227
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	5	40	\$11,847
Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores	3	*	*
General merchandise stores	3	33	\$17,330
Miscellaneous store retailers	9	51	\$14,610
Nonstore retailers	1	*	*

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	14	34	\$30,934
Air transportation	2	*	*
Truck transportation	7	10	\$17,607
Support activities for transportation	2	*	*
Couriers and messengers	2	*	*
Warehousing and storage	1	*	*
INFORMATION	8	68	\$16,995
Publishing industries, except Internet	2	*	*
Motion picture, sound recording industry	2	*	*
Broadcasting, except Internet	2	*	*
Telecommunications	2	*	*
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	18	118	\$35,034
Credit intermediation & related activity	8	87	\$35,127
Securities, comm. contracts, investments	2	*	*
Insurance carriers & related activities	8	*	*
REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING	13	37	\$12,280
Real estate	11	*	*
Rental and leasing services	2	*	*
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	29	124	\$39,062
MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES AND ENTERPRISES	1	*	*
ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES	13	59	\$14,337
Administrative and support services	11	*	*
Waste management and remediation service	3	*	*
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	41	649	\$22,935
Ambulatory health care services	27	123	\$22,149
Hospitals	1	*	*
Nursing and residential care facilities	2	*	*
Social assistance	12	138	\$11,926
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION	12	97	\$12,308
Museums, historical sites, zoos, & parks	1	*	*
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	11	*	*
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES	45	453	\$8,413
Accommodation	7	108	\$10,942
Food services and drinking places	38	345	\$7,622
OTHER SERVICES	40	149	\$12,528
Repair and maintenance	16	35	\$15,445
Personal and laundry services	5	26	\$14,642
Membership associations & organizations	15	77	\$10,197
Private households	4	12	\$14,315
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	45	1,019	\$28,010
Local Government	19	599	\$23,297
State Government	14	253	\$27,412
Federal Government	12	166	\$45,943

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

* Data Not Disclosable

The QCEW program compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance. (Totals may not add due to nondisclosure of confidential industry data or to rounding.)